VISCHER'S PORTFOLIO

OF THE

MAMMOTH TREE GROVE

PATENT APPLIED FOR

THE MAMMOTH TREE GROVE,

CALAVERAS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, AND ITS AVENUES.

PUBLISHED BY EDWARD VISCHER.

I N D E X.

The Frontispiece.

A fanciful representation of the GROVE, showing the principal groupings of the giant trees, irrespective of their relative position. Wreath of the Foliage and cones of the Següoias, from nature.

Plate I. The Approaches of the Grove.

Upper Range: The surroundings of MURPHY'S. Sperry's Hotel at Murphy's.
The Suspension Flume, Deep Cut, and Union Aqueduct.

Lower Range: A View of the SIERRA NEVADA, from the ridge above the grove
Side Vignettes: Mudsprings. The Cascade near Woodfords'.

Plate II. Entrance to the Grove, arriving from Murphy's.

The principal Avenue of the Grove; and the sidepath leading through it from the main road.
The Guardsmen or Sentinels; the Pavillon; Stump and Log of the Original Big Tree; Hotel in the distance.

Plate III. Remarkable Trunks, Roots and Tops.

No. 1. The HORSEBACKRIDE, a hollow trunk, Distance through 70 feet, 12 feet in the clear.
" 2. EAGLES WING, the root of a fallen tree, near Old Dominion, not named before.
" 3. PIONEER'S CABIN, 33 feet in diameter, 150 feet high, the top being broken off.
" 4. MINER'S CABIN, as standing 1855, 80 feet circumference, 290 feet high.
" 5. The tops of OLD DOMINION and UNCLE TOM'S CABIN and clusters of other trees, as seen from the base, lying under their shade.
" 6. MINER'S CABIN, overthrown and uprooted in the November gale 1860.

Plate IV. A Walk through the Grove.

No. 7. A WALK THROUGH THE FOREST; a combination, representing the following:
STUMP and LOG of the original "BIG TREE", Dimensions below; HORSEBACKRIDE,
THE MOTHER OF THE FOREST, stripped of its bark 1855; and its skeleton 1861.
DIMENSIONS: 90 feet in circum. at the base, 84 feet without the bark;
height 321 feet, the bark taken off 116 feet high 1854.
The PRIDE OF THE FOREST, height 275, circum. 60 feet, and

Plate V. The Three Graces.

THE THREE GRACES, one of the most beautiful groups of the grove.
DIMENSIONS: height 295 feet, together 92 feet in circumference at the base.

Plate VI. Mother and Son.

" 9. MOTHER AND SON, DIMENSIONS: height 315 & 302 feet, united circumference 93 feet.

Plate VII. Two Fallen Giants.

No. 8. The FATHER OF THE FOREST, the largest specimen of the Grove; though prostrate and half buried in the ground; 300 feet from the root, where broken off by striking against another large tree, measures 18 feet in diameter.
" 10. The ORIGINAL "BIG TREE" Stump and Log, felled in 1852. Its Size, when standing, was 302 feet height, 96 feet in circumference, Stump 7 feet high: thickness of bark from 15 to 18 inches.

Plate VIII. The Sentinels of the Grove.

" 11. The TWO GUARDSMEN by the roadside at the entrance of the clearing; height 300 feet each; the respective circumference 65 & 69 feet.

Plate IX. The Mammoth Grove, Farm, Hotel and Grounds.

No. 12. The MAMMOTH GROVE HOTEL, grounds and general view of the forest, from a sketch taken in September 1861 on the occasion of the first imported Bactrian Camels crossing the Sierra Nevada by the Big Tree Route.

THE VISITORS GUIDE.

This Grove is situated in a small valley near the headwaters of the San Antonio, one of the largest streams in Central Calaveras and five miles east of the Falls on said stream. Daily lines of stages run from Sacramento and Stockton, passing through San Andreas, Angels and Vallecito, and arriving at Murphy's in the evening. Murphy's is 15 miles from the Grove; and here the traveler may take a coach at Sperry's Hotel, at 6 o'clock next morning. Leaving Murphy's by an excellent carriage road, and gradually ascending, winding through a splendid forest of pine, cedar and firs, intermixed with various kinds of oaks, mostly in sight of the extensive Aqueduct of the Union Water Company, the Mammoth Grove Hotel is reached after a drive of from three to three and a half hours. The distance from Sacramento to Murphy's, though longer by Stageroute, is only 80 miles. From Stockton, on a good road for private conveyance, it does not exceed 50 miles. From Sonora it is 14 miles, from Columbia 11 miles, and from Copperopolis 14 miles. Woodfords, at the mouth of Carson Cañon beyond the Sierra Nevada, is only 65 miles from the Grove; and the „Big Tree Route" from Murphy's to Genoa opened by the enterprising citizens of Murphys, (an excellent natural road following up undulating ridges and descending through fertile valleys), becomes more and more appreciated. The Alpine Scenery on this the southern route is truly magnificent.—The Valley contains something over 160 acres of land. It is 4000 feet above the level of the Sea. Ninety three trees of the Mammoth Species (not including those of one, two and three years growth), are now standing, and are all found within an area of 50 acres of the valley. They are evidently a gigantic species of Cedar, as indicated by the growth, bark and leaf; according to Botanists however, they belong to the family of TAXODIUM, are now known as Següoia gigantea Sempervirens. They are beyond doubt the most stupendous vegetable products upon earth. They were discovered in the spring of 1850, by Mr A. T. Dowd, whilst on a hunt for deer, whose account to his companions of what he had seen upon returning to camp, was considered fabulous and utterly discredited until proved by actual measurement. The valley enjoys a splendid climate during the spring, summer and autumn months, being exempt from the heat of the lower country and from the cold of the higher mountains. Vegetation remains fresh and green until the middle of October and the water is always pure and cold. Snow falls usually about the middle of December, often accumulating to a depth of four or five feet, and entirely disappears by the middle of April. The vicinity offers every inducement to sportsmen; all kinds of game common to the country abound, while the adjacent streams afford excellent Trout fishing. Delightful horseback or buggy rides conduct the visitor to many interesting points of scenery or objects of curiosity, among which may be mentioned the Falls of the San Antonio, and the Basaltic Cliff on the North Fork of the Stanislaus river. It is only justice to the Proprietors of the Grove to add, that the newly constructed fine and spacious Hotel at the Mammoth Grove vies with the one at Murphys in excellence of accommodations and that every comfort is provided for. E. V.

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VISCHER'S VIEWS OF CALIFORNIA.

THE MAMMOTH TREE GROVE

CALAVERAS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

AND ITS AVENUES.

TYPOGRAPHICAL WORK BY AGNEW & DAFFEBACH, SAN FRANCISCO.

CONSISTING OF TITLE PAGE & 12 PLATES WITH 25 ENGRAVINGS

L. NACEL, PRINT.

C. C. KUCHEL, LITH.

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The Mammoth Tree Grove,

CALAVERAS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, AND ITS AVENUES.

PUBLISHED BY EDWARD VISCHER.

Vischer's

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

The Mammoth Tree Grove, its discovery, and the dimensions of the prominent specimens of the *Sequoia Gigantea Sempervirens*, have been frequently described, and so full an account given in *Hutchings' Magazine* for March, 1859, as to render any other description apparently superfluous. As, however, a work specially devoted to the representation of this Grove would be incomplete without accompanying details, we give, as an appendix, an abstract from the source above alluded to.

For a considerable time after its discovery, the Calaveras Grove was considered the only one of the species in existence. But, notwithstanding the discovery of similar Groves in Mariposa and other parts of Southern California, that above Murphy's will, for years to come, remain the only one easy of access where a sufficiency of clearing allows visitors to roam and more fully appreciate the immense proportions of these secluded giants, and where the comforts of sight-seeing or pleasure-seeking parties are so well provided for.

Time and again have we visited that beautiful spot, in sunny as well as gloomy days, and invariably returned from our rambles through the Grove wonderfully refreshed in mind and spirit. The avenues conducting to it would alone repay the trouble of the journey. The ascent from Murphy's leads through a splendid forest of pine, cedar and fir, interspersed with oak, following up a ravine, and subsequently the ridge on which the flume of the Union Water Company is constructed. The airy tracery of its scaffolding over deep gullies, the mad rush of the torrent, as seen foaming through the ditch races; then again, glimpses of a placid sheet of water, a natural reservoir, a saw-mill or a log cabin, diversify the scenery, until the opening meadow ground to the left of the road (where an arbor-covered ice-house is passed) announces to the tourist his arrival at the alluvial flat of the Big Tree Valley.

The quiet retirement of this Eden is the more impressive, by contrast, to the visitor who, like ourselves on previous occasions, makes it a resting place on a tour through the California mining region, where waste and destruction in every form is the prevailing characteristic, bearing mute testimony to the demoniac power of Mammon.

The gigantic dimensions of the Sequoias, though exceeding the average elevation of the rest of the forest by fully one-third, can only make themselves gradually appreciated to the eye and to the mind. Their stupendous forms grow upon the beholder as he prolongs his stay; and from each successive ramble through the Grove, one returns with heightened interest, yielding to nature's silent eloquence in its sublimest grandeur. On each succeeding visit to this delightful spot, a longing to render some faint idea of it to distant friends gained upon us. To accomplish it we took up the long neglected pencil, and derived heartfelt gratification from our endeavors, the result of which is now presented to the public. It were difficult to decide which is the greater subject for admiration: the imposing grandeur of the giants standing in the pride of full vigor, or the solemn majesty of the fallen ones, deeply imbedded in the soil by the force of their tremendous downfall; for, though partially concealed, they speak all the more impressively to the imagination of the beholder, as they will to succeeding generations serve as monuments of by-gone ages.

To the spirit bowed with affliction, or harrowed with cares, a pilgrimage to these shadowy shrines offords most soothing consolation. Behold the evergreen summits of trees that have withstood the storms of more than three thousand years! Gaze on the ponderous and almost imperishable remains of *their* sires! While lost in wonder and admiration, the turmoil of earthly strife seems to vanish; and the true harbinger of Peace, the olive branch of Hope, returns to the mind, in the comparison of Time with Eternity!

changes that have taken place in

learn of many wonderful

DESCRIPTION OF PLATES.

THE FRONTISPIECE

Is a fanciful grouping of the principal Trees of the Grove, irrespective of their relative position, arranged as they might be seen, were it not for the obstruction of the dense pine forest and undergrowth which prevents the possibility of any general view of the Sequoias.

The wreath encircling the base is a faithful representation of the foliage and cones of the Sequoia, so strikingly small in comparison with the actual size of the trees themselves. The branch to the left, on its extremities, is tipped with the graceful blossoms, the roseate tint of which in nature contrasts prettily with the delicate green of its foliage.

Plate I.—The Approaches of the Grove.

MURPHY'S.

The upper range of this plate is dedicated to the immediate surroundings of Murphy's, the well known starting point for the Mammoth Tree Grove—from which it is distant only fifteen miles—and where conveyances of every kind can be had. Murphy's itself, (a thriving and one of the oldest mining settlements of the State, formerly known as Murphy's Camp,) may be said to be within a day's distance from San Francisco, being easily reached in twenty-six hours, either by way of Stockton or Sacramento, (the distance from Stockton is only fifty miles by a direct road,) by steam and a daily line of stages; while a morning coach starts daily from Murphy's for the Grove. The hotel at Murphy's, which is represented in the centre oval, (separated from the main field by a wreath of branches and cones of the *Sequoia Gigantea Sempervirens*,) vies in excellence of accommodations with the hotel established at the Mammoth Tree Grove itself. The side vignettes commemorate some monuments of the enterprise of the mining community at Murphy's—mostly old settlers—whose perseverance is so well attested; namely:

THE SUSPENSION FLUME, which was erected by the Central Hill Mining Company, as a conduit over a gulch 300 feet deep, with a central span of 740 feet from pillar to pillar; hanging in wire cables. After two year's service it was carried away during a storm, and subsequently superceded by iron pipes.

THE DEEP CUT, a channel about a mile and a half in length, blasted through solid rock, in order to gain a drainage of thirty feet for the mining claims above Murphy's, toward the above ravine, obviating the further use of numerous *cranes* and *windlasses*. And, finally, discernable in the background (but disconnected from the latter view,) the

UNION AQUEDUCT, from the sources of the Stanislaus, (eighty miles in length,) the tracery of which indicates the ascent from Murphy's to the Grove, in an easterly direction. To the Nimrods of Murphy's Camp the public is indebted for the early discovery of a southern pass over the mountains, (connecting with the old Carson road and by Hope Valley and Grass Lake, with Lake Valley, on the Placerville-Carson route,) an excellent natural road, following mostly the dividing ridge between the Calaveras and Stanislaus, and fine valleys with abundance of pasture, which makes them a favorite herding ground during the summer and fall of the year. Woodford's, at the mouth of Carson Cañon, is only sixty-five miles from the Grove. The centre vignette of the lower range, as a befitting counterpart to the range above, gives

A VIEW OF THE SIERRA NEVADA,

From a point three miles beyond the Grove, on the ridge on which the road to Carson runs eastward. Though affording a mere glimpse, it is suggestive of the magnificent Alpine Scenery on the so-called Big Tree route, over which, in September last, the first Bactrain Camels imported from the Amoor River were taken to their new desert home, beyond the Sierra Nevada.

The side vignettes represent two other views of that mountain scenery: Mud Springs, (or McLelland's,) a lovely spot, only eight miles beyond the [illegible]

We cannot omit this opportunity to mention Hermit Valley (Holden's,) at the headwaters of the Mokelumne; nor the picturesque Mountain Lakes near the East Summit; the Devil's Ladder, the Dead Forest in Border Ruffian Valley, and the glorious sight of the peak called the Calaveras Monument, towering over the valleys of Faith, Hope and Charity—names emblematic of the feelings of the early emigrants, after conquering the hardships of the *much dreaded* Carson Cañon.

The splendid scenery of this whole region, by its ever-varied character, deserves a more graphic description than the passing notice we here can give; and, therefore, in as far as our ability will permit, we propose making it the subject of an early separate publication.

Plate II.—Entrance to the Grove, arriving from Murphy's,

Represents the principal avenue to the Grove, undoubtedly impressed on the mind of all who have visited it; with two of the Mammoth Trees, "The Guardsmen," standing, like the sentinels of an outpost, on the southwestern extremity of the Grove, a magnificent guard to that Druid's Shrine. This sketch exhibits, at full length, the remains of the original Big Tree, (now prostrate on mother earth,) its stump discernible as pedestal of the Pavilion, the log partially hid by the building and bowling-alley erected over it, and indicating the direction in which the end-piece of that monstrous tree is seen emerging from its housing. The gap on the right side of it shows the path which, by half an hour's walk through the Grove, leads round to the hotel, the building just discernible behind "The Guardians," a beacon welcome alike to the wayworn overland emigrant, the recruiting invalid, the pleasure parties which flock to it from the mining towns and the lower country, and occasionally to visitors from far abroad, bent on scientific research.

Plate IX.—The Mammoth Grove Farm, Hotel and Grounds.

Though concluding the set of views of the Mammoth Grove, is here next mentioned as counterpart to Plate II. It represents the *Farm, Hotel and Grounds*, taken from opposite the clearing of about eighty acres, as the only spot affording a general view of the forest. "The Guardsmen" here appear in full height to the right of the picture, while the stump and log are indicated by the Pavilion and buildings erected on them.

Since a spacious new structure has replaced the original Big Tree Cottage, the site of the latter, as foreground of the new hotel, has been laid out as a park, the ornamental shrubbery of which forms a striking contrast to the giant proportions beyond. The remnants of felled trees in the foreground, a chaotic wilderness, show this settlement as an oasis in the apparently boundless forest. As an evidence of there having once existed Indian wigwams in this neighborhood, we notice the holes in the granite boulder close by the fence, which, with the aid of a pestle, formed the usual means of pounding their acorn food. Had their seers possessed the gift of second-sight, the gaunt, spectre-like forms of the camels, as we saw them passing through the Grove, would have harrowed them with fearful visions of intruders from Asia, as well as from the land of the "pale faces."

Having thus disposed of the two principal pictures of the Avenues, the other plates require but brief notice.

Plate III—[illegible]

prostrate trunk, hollow from end to end; and another belonging to a fallen giant without name, which, from its shape, deserves the name of "Eagle's Wing."

Nos. 3 and 4.—Show the "Pioneers" and the "Miners' Cabin," both standing in 1855; the first of which, in some former gale, was broken off about 150 feet from its base, while the latter, then retaining its full height (about 290 feet.) was borne down in the hurricane of November, 1860, as indicated by sketch No. 6.

No. 5.—Was suggested by a bivouac in 1859, under "Old Dominion" and "Uncle Tom's Cabin," near the "Eagle's Wing," around which a number of those hoary giants raise their heads. On awakening at daybreak, we beheld their lofty crowns hundreds of feet above us, and made a memorandum of that mole perspective, with its singular effect of converging tops and commingling foliage which is here given. The crowns of both the above named and a third Mammoth Tree, as well as the surrounding Firs and Pines, are portraits sketched in the unusual position of lying flat on the ground, with the paper extended at arm's length. Without this explanation, the drawing could not be well understood.

Plates IV and V.—A Walk through the Grove.

Plate IV., No. 7.

No. 7.—A combination of some of the prominent giants in the Grove. The original "Big Tree" Stump and Log, and "Horseback Ride," occupying the foreground; while the "Three Graces," "Pride of the Forest," and other distant trees, surround the principal feature, the "*Mother of the Forest*," which is given as it stands, a mere skeleton (1861) side by side with the appearance it presented in 1855, when, though despoiled of its bark to the height of 116 feet (for purposes of exhibition,) it yet stood in full vigor, spreading its dense foliage over the lower forest. This representation is adopted not only from the impossibility of showing separately so many trees, which seem to claim notice as individuals, but to convey an idea of the character of the forest, and the proportions of the *Sequoias* to the surrounding pine forest, which could not be given in any other way.

Plate V.—The Three Graces.

A reduced copy from the original drawing of the late T. A. Ayres, to exhibit the beautiful proportions of this trio, one of the finest groups of the Grove, to more advantage.

Plate VI.—"Mother and Son," from Photograph.

No. 9.—"Mother and Son," taken first by photograph, for a faithful representation of the structure, character of the bark, and to ensure true proportions. As trees in perfect state of preservation, this group deserves notice.

Plate VII.—Two of the principal features of the Mammoth Grove.

No. 8.—"The Father of the Forest."

No. 8.—The "Father of the Forest," a giant fallen centuries ago, is the colossal chronological monument of this Grove. Its prostrate form lies overshadowed by a numerous progeny of trees, ranging from two to three hundred years in age; besides many full-grown giants of the species. The immense size of this tree, while standing, may be estimated by the stupendous fragments that remain. The trunk, measuring about 30 feet in diameter at its base, (partly imbedded,) and 18 feet at a distance of 300 feet, warrants an estimate of 450 feet in length; and its lumber has been calculated to amount to nearly a million of square feet in one-inch boards. Its bark, charred and rent, presents hollows (filled in spring with snow-water) large enough for a man to bathe in; and a Grenadier could march erect through the entire length of its hollow trunk. Quite a thicket of blackberry and other bushes crest its surface near the root.

The largest and finest of the Sequoias, just visible as standing behind this giant trunk, received the name of Sir John Franklin on the occasion of Lady Franklin's visit to the Forest during the Autumn, 1861.

"Hercules," the most stalwart of the giant trees, was uprooted shortly afterwards during the great hurricane of December, 1861.

No. 10.—The Big Tree Stump and Log.

Taken from photographs in 1855, representing the "Big Tree Stump" and "Log," the former sheltered by a temporary arbor, lately replaced by the Pavilion. This section is chosen as adapted to show the Base of the Tree to greatest advantage in detail, the drills of the large augers by which it was felled being plainly discernible.

Plate VIII.—"The Two Guardsmen," (No. 11.)

As seen from near the bridge, close to their base, with the Big Tree Pavilion, Log and Bowling Alley beyond, and the Hotel just discernible in the background. The figures, in faithful proportions, serve as means to appreciate the distance.

FOREST SCENES FROM NATURE.

PLATE X. THE FALLEN HERCULES.

This prominent Tree, one of the largest of the Grove, not far from the "Father of the Forest," bowed its proud head to the storms of last winter. Standing on low ground, where the soil became thoroughly saturated during the first rains, and much injured at the roots by one of the bygone conflagrations of the forest, its portentous bulk had but insufficient support at the base; and the tree having already a very marked inclination, deviating nearly ten degrees from the perpendicular line, it could not withstand the heavy gales of this unusually inclement season. Striking in its fall against the slope of the hill, it snapped asunder, the upper part resting against the hillside, while the lower portion of about two hundred feet in length was saved from being more deeply imbedded by another large fallen tree that lay across its path. This modern relic of the Grove, with the foliage of the branches kept green until summer, having long been protected by the snow, explains much of the history of so many other fallen trees; and by ascending the trunk and following it up to the broken limbs, the fragments of which resemble full-grown cedars, there is a fine opportunity for closely examining what attracts the curiosity of so many visitors, the tops and crowns of these giants, and for judging of the weight and bulk of the material exposed to the blast of the elements at such tremendous elevation.

PLATE XI. "HERMIT," AND THE "BURNT TREE."

The charred trunk in the foreground, belonging to a mammoth tree of bygone ages, forms an interesting contrast to the splendid form of the "Hermit," towering in full height—the soundest and most perfect tree of the Grove, standing in full vigor, and seen to better advantage than any other of the species.

PLATE XII. THE ORPHANS. AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE GROVE FROM THE SIERRA NEVADA.

Are, next to the "Three Graces," (represented in Plate V,) the most beautiful group of the Sequoia Gigantea Sempervirens. Almost equal in height and proportions, they stand in close proximity, as if sprung from the same root, their branches and foliage gracefully entwining; and though, comparatively, of limited height—their age, probably, not exceeding a thousand years—they are befitting counterparts to the "Guardsmen" adorning the other extremity of the Grove. We therefore gladly selected them as the closing subject of this collection, feeling that the addition of these forest views, drawn from nature during a late visit to the Grove, was required to convey a correct idea of its scenery, which could never be thoroughly rendered by the mere representation of single trees, or groups disconnected from their surroundings.

APPENDIX.

EXTRACT FROM HUTCHING'S CALIFORNIA MAGAZINE, MARCH, 1859.

In the spring of 1852, Mr. A. T. Dowd, one of the Nimrods of Calaveras County, employed by the Union Water Company to supply the workmen engaged in the construction of their canal, with game, in the pursuit of a large bear he had wounded, suddenly came upon one of these magnificent giants of vegetation that have since become so famous throughout the world, as the Mammoth Trees. On returning to camp and relating the discovery, his usually reliable veracity was doubted; and it was not until several days afterwards that he could prevail on his companions, under the plea of helping to bring in an immense grizzly he pretended to have killed, to accompany him to the spot, where subsequently other trees, equally large, were found; and from that time the discovery of this remarkable Grove attracted notice in all parts of the State, and afterwards abroad.

The site of the Grove was subsequently claimed under the Pre-emption Law, by an individual not connected with the original discovery, who forthwith commenced removing the bark of the original "Big Tree," which was afterwards felled.

The Mammoth Tree Grove is situated in a gently sloping, heavily timbered valley, on the divide or ridge between the San Antonio branch of the Calaveras river and the North Fork of the Stanislaus river, in lat. 38 deg. north, lon. 120 deg. 10 min. west; at an elevation of 2,300 feet above Murphy's Camp, and 4,370 feet above the level of the sea, at a distance of 97 miles from Sacramento City, and 87 miles from Stockton, (by direct roads only 80 and 50 respectively; from Columbia 10, and Sonora 14.)

The Mammoth Tree is decided to belong to the *Taxodium* family, referred to the old *Genus Sequoia Sempervirens;* having been properly examined and classified, it is now only known among scientific men as the *Sequoia Gigantea Sempervirens.*

Within an area of about fifty acres there are about ninety trees of a goodly size, twenty of which exceed 25 feet in diameter at the base, and consequently are about 75 feet in circumference!

The Original "Big Tree,"

Felled for the purpose of exhibiting a section of the stump and the bark in the Atlantic cities. Five men were employed for 25 days in felling the "Big Tree," by boring it off with pump augers, and inserting wedges after the stem was once severed from the stump, until they procured its downfall. This noble tree was 302 feet in height, and 96 feet in circumference at the ground. Upon the upper part of the prostrate trunk is constructed a long double bowling alley.

The Big Tree stump, on which on the subsequent 4th of July, 32 persons were engaged in dancing four sets of cotillions, besides musicians and lookers-on, measures across the solid wood, five and a half feet from the ground, 25 feet without the bark (15 to 18 inches thick,) and 28 feet with the bark. The wood is sound to the very centre.

A WALK THROUGH THE FOREST.

The "Mother of the Forest"

In the summer of 1854 the bark was stripped from this tree, by an act of vandalism, for purposes of exhibition in the east, to the height of 116 feet; it now measures in circumference, without the bark, at the base, 84 feet; twenty feet from base, 69 feet; seventy feet from base, 43 feet 6 inches; one hundred and sixteen feet from base, and up to the bark, 39 feet 6 inches. The full circumference at base, including bark, was 90 feet. Its height is 321 feet. The average thickness of bark was 11 inches; although in places it was about two feet. This tree is estimated to contain 537,000 feet of sound inch lumber.

"Father of the Forest."

A short distance from the above lies the prostrate and majestic body of the "Father of the Forest," the largest tree of the entire group, half buried in the soil. This tree measures in circumference, at the roots, 110 feet. It is 200 feet to the first branch, the whole of which is hollow, and through which a person can walk erect. By the trees that were broken off when this tree bowed its proud head in its fall, it is estimated that when standing it could not be less than 435 feet in height. Three hundred feet from the roots, where it was broken off by striking against another large tree, it is 18 feet in diameter. Around this tree stand the graceful, yet giant trunks of numerous other trees, which form a family circle, and make this the most imposing scene in the whole group. Near its base is a never-failing spring of cold and delicious water.

The "Husband and Wife,"

Two graceful trees leaning against each other. Both of the same size, measure in circumference, at the base, about 60 feet, and in height about 252 feet.

The "Burnt Tree"

Is prostrate, and hollow from numerous burnings, in which a person can ride on horseback for 60 feet It now measures across the roots 39 feet 6 inches.

"Hercules,"

Another of these giants, is 95 feet in circumference, and 320 feet high. On the trunk of this tree is cut the name of J. M. Wooster, June, 1850.

The "Hermit,"

318 feet in height, and 60 in circumference; exceedingly straight and well-formed.

The "Old Maid"

Is 261 feet in height, and 59 feet in circumference.

"Old Bachelor"

Is one of the roughest, bark-rent specimens of the Big Trees to be found; 298 feet in height, and 60 feet in circumference.

The "Pioneer's Cabin,"

The top of which is broken off about 150 feet from the ground. This tree measures 33 feet in diameter, but, as it is hollow and uneven in its circumference, its average will not be quite equal to that.

The "Siamese Twins,"

As their name indicates, with one large stem at the ground, form a double tree about 41 feet upwards. These are each 300 feet in height.

Near them stands the

"Guardian,"

A fine-looking old tree, 320 feet in height, and 81 feet in circumference.

The "Mother and Son"

Form another beautiful sight, as side by side they stand. The former is 315 feet in height, and the latter 302 feet. Unitedly their circumference is 93 feet.

The "Horseback Ride"

Is an old, broken, and long prostrate trunk, 150 feet in length, hollow from one end to the other, and in which, to the distance of 72 feet, a person can ride on horseback. At the narrowest place inside, this tree is 12 feet high.

"Uncle Tom's Cabin"

Is another fanciful name, given to a tree that is hollow, and in which 25 persons can be seated comfortably. This tree is 305 feet in height, and 91 in circumference,

The "Pride of the Forest"

Is one of the most beautiful trees of this wonderful Grove. It is well-shaped, straight and sound; and, although not quite as large as some of the others, it is, nevertheless, a noble-looking member of the Grove; 275 feet in height, and 60 feet in circumference.

The "Beauty of the Forest"

Is similar in shape to the above, and measures 307 feet in height, and 65 feet in circumference.

The "Two Guardsmen"

Stand by the roadside at the entrance of the "clearing," and near the cottages. They seem to be the sentinels of the valley. In height these are 300 feet, and in circumference one is 65 feet, and the other 69 feet.

Next, though last in being mentioned, not least in gracefulness and beauty, stand the

"Three Sisters,"

By some called the "Three Graces," one of the most beautiful groups (if not the most beautiful) of the whole Grove. Together, at their base, they measure in circumference 92 feet, and in height they are equal, and each measures nearly 295 feet.

Many of the largest of these trees have been deformed and otherwise injured by the numerous and large fires that have swept with desolating fury over this forest at different periods. But a small portion of decayed timber, of the *Taxodium Genus*, can be seen. Like other varieties of the same species, it is less subject to decay, even when fallen and dead, than other woods.

Respecting the age of this Grove, there has been but one opinion among the best informed botanists, which is this: that each concentric circle is the growth of one year, and as nearly three thousand concentric circles can be counted in the stump of the fallen tree, it is correct to conclude that these trees are nearly three thousand years old. "This," says the Gardener's Calendar, "may very well be true, if it does not grow above two inches in diameter in twenty years, which we believe to be the fact."

Could these magnificent and venerable forest giants of Calaveras County be gifted with a descriptive historical tongue, we could doubtless learn of many wonderful changes that have taken place in California within the last three thousand years!

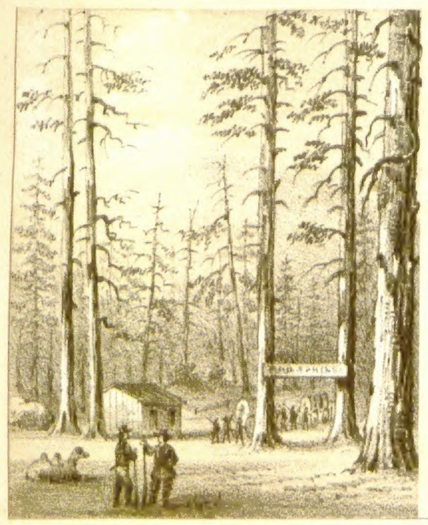
THE APPROACHES OF THE GROVE.

SUSPENSION FLUME AT MURPHY'S, 1859.

SPERRY'S HOTEL AT MURPHY'S.

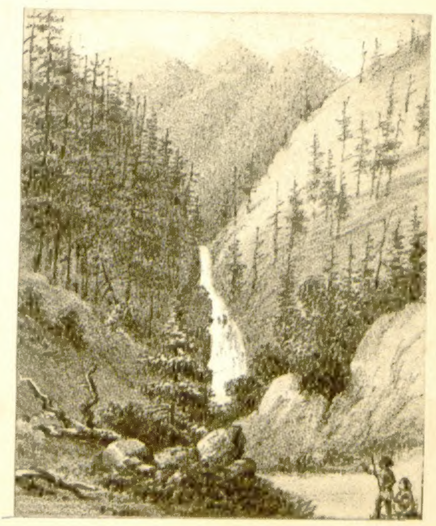
THE DEEP CUT AT MURPHY'S, 1859.

VIEWS OF THE MINING TOWN OF MURPHY'S THE STARTING PLACE FOR THE GROVE.



MUD SPRINGS.

FIRST GLIMPSE OF THE SIERRA NEVADA FROM THE RIDGE ON THE CARSON ROAD.



CASCADE AT WOODFORDS.

VIEWS FROM THE MURPHY OR BIG TREE ROUTE OVER THE SIERRA NEVADA.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1862, by Edward Vischer, in the Clerk's Office of the U. S. District Court of the Northern District of California.

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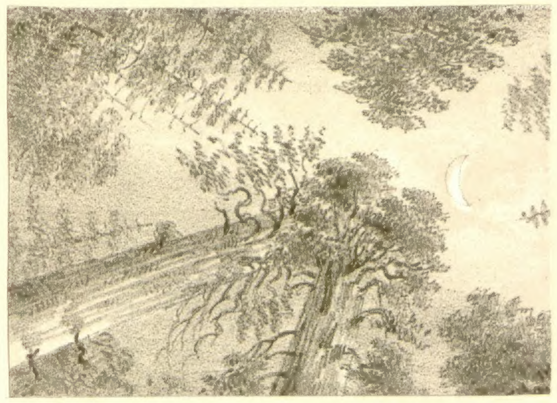
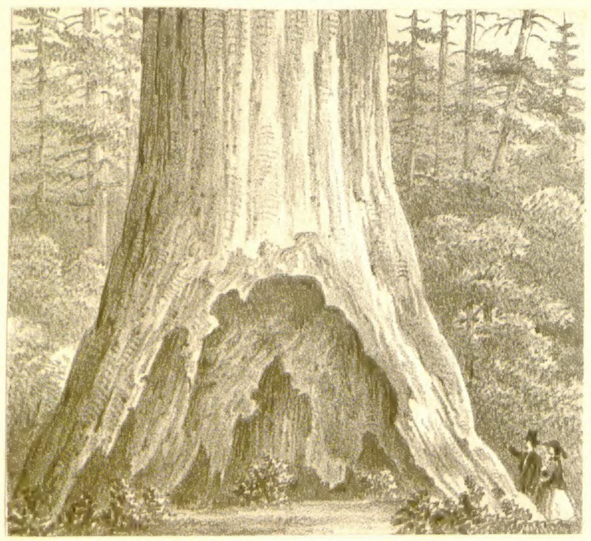
ENTRANCE TO THE GROVE, ARRIVING FROM MURPHY'S.

1. THE HORSEBACK RIDE.



5. OLD DOMINION AND UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.

6. MINER'S CABIN, 1860.



3. PIONEER'S CABIN.

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2. EAGLE'S WING.

4. MINER'S CABIN, 1855.

THE MAMMOTH GROVE. PLATE IV.

7. **MOTHER OF THE FOREST,** (1855 and 1861,) AND OTHER GROUPS.

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THE MAMMOTH GROVE. PLATE V.

7. THE THREE GRACES.

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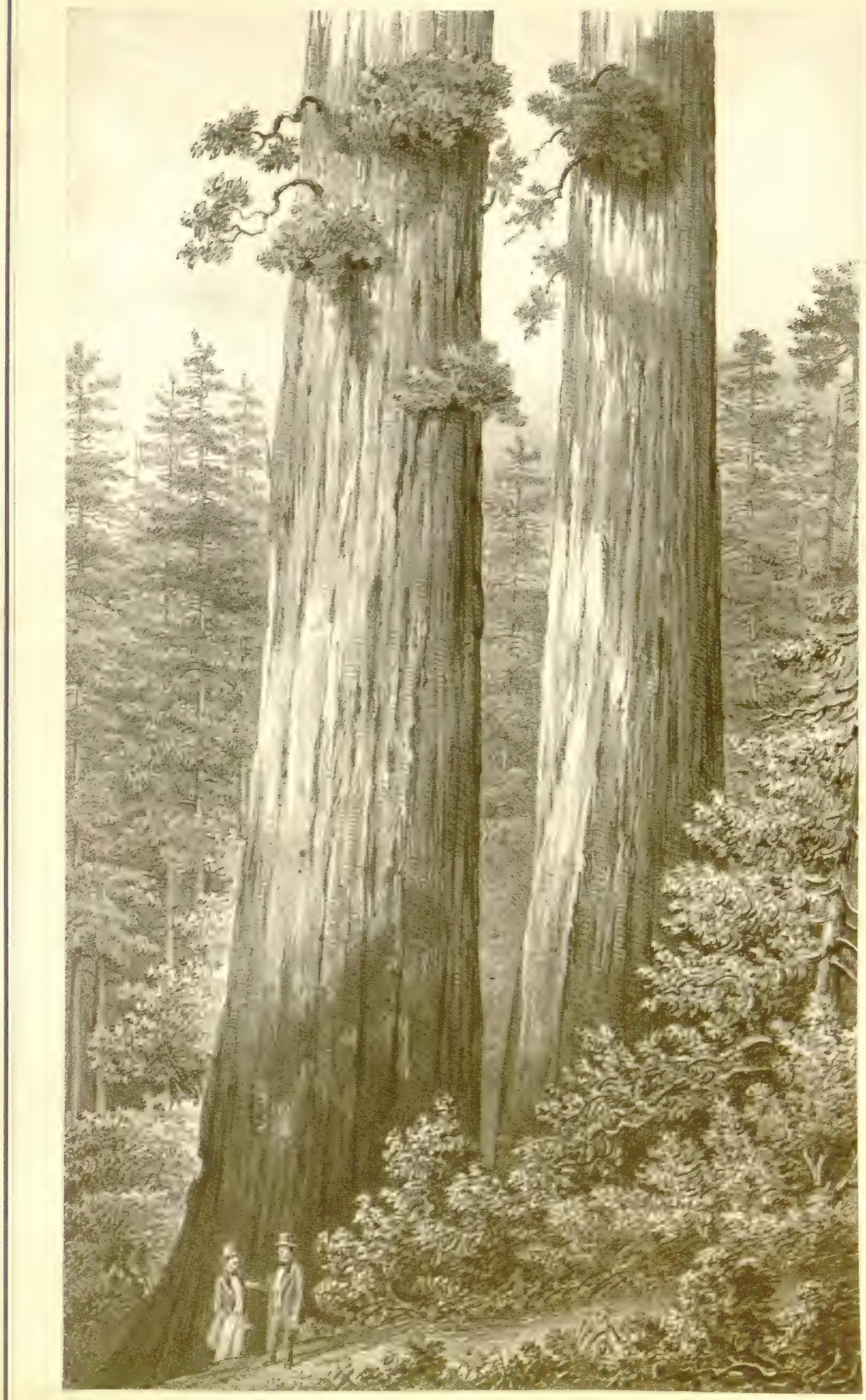
THE MAMMOTH GROVE. PLATE VI.



MOTHER AND SON. FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1862, by Edward Vischer, in the Clerk's Office of the U. S. District Court of the Northern District of California.

10. STUMP AND LOG OF THE ORIGINAL BIG TREE, 1855. FROM PHOTOGRAPHS.

8. THE FATHER OF THE FOREST.

PARTIALLY BURIED IN THE GROUND. CIRCUMFERENCE AT THE ROOT 112 FEET. ESTIMATED HEIGHT, BEFORE ITS DOWNFALL, 450 FEET.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1862, by Edward Vischer, in the Clerk's Office of the U. S. District Court of the Northern District of California

THE MAMMOTH GROVE. PLATE VIII.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1862, by Edward Vischer, in the Clerk's Office of the U. S. District Court of the Northern District of California

11. **"THE TWO GUARDSMEN."** AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE GROVE, 1861.

12. THE MAMMOTH GROVE HOTEL, GROUNDS, AND GENERAL VIEW OF THE FOREST.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1862, by Edward Vischer, in the Clerk's Office of the U. S. District Court of the Northern District of California

THE MAMMOTH GROVE.

PLATE X.

THE FALLEN HERCULES OF THE GROVE.

Diameter [illegible] standing 320 feet ; Circumference at the base 95 feet. Swept down by the December Gale, 1861

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1862, by Edward Vischer, in the Clerk's Office of the U. S. District Court of the Northern District of California.

HERMIT.

Height 318 Feet; Circumference at the Base 60 Feet.

IN THE FOREGROUND **THE BURNT TREE,** A CHARRED TRUNK.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1862. by Edward Vischer, in the Clerk's Office of the U. S. District Court of the Northern District of California.

THE ORPHANS.

AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE GROVE FROM THE SIERRA NEVADA.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1862. by Edward Vischer, in the Clerk's Office of the U. S. District Court of the Northern District of California.

VISCHER'S VIEWS OF CALIFORNIA.

THE MAMMOTH TREE GROVE

CALAVERAS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

AND ITS AVENUES.

CONSISTING OF TITLE PAGE & 9 PLATES WITH 22 ENGRAVINGS.

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS IN THE YEAR 1862 BY EDWARD VISCHER, IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CAL.

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